

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A remote-controlled, self-propelled utility cart for carrying domestic items comprising:
 - a load carrying body configured to carry a household item, wherein said load carrying body has a manual handle and is supported by a plurality of wheels;
 - a drive assembly, wherein said drive assembly drives at least one of said plurality of wheels;
 - a steering assembly, wherein said steering assembly steers at least one of said plurality of wheels;
 - a receiver, wherein said receiver is positioned proximate said load carrying body and is in communication with said drive assembly and said steering assembly; and
 - a remote controller, wherein said remote controller remotely communicates with said receiver to convey a desired speed and direction of said drive assembly and a desired turn orientation of said steering assembly, wherein said receiver receives the desired conveyances and communicates the desired conveyances to said drive assembly and said steering assembly, respectively.
2. The utility cart of claim 1, wherein the remote communication is via a wireless communications protocol or through a control wire operably connecting the remote controller and the receiver.

3. The utility cart of claim 2, wherein the wireless communications protocol is selected from the group consisting essentially of: radio frequency control and infrared control.
4. The utility cart of claim 1, wherein said load carrying body comprises a thermal cooler box.
5. The utility cart of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said drive assembly is maintained within the confines of said load carrying body.
6. The utility cart of claim 5, wherein said receiver is mounted to said load carrying body.
7. The utility cart of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of said steering assembly is maintained within the confines of said load carrying body.
8. The utility cart of claim 7, wherein said portion of said drive assembly and said steering assembly maintained within the confines of said load carrying body are separated from said household items by a loading floor.
9. The utility cart of claim 8, wherein said load carrying body includes a mounting floor, wherein said portions of said drive assembly and said steering assembly that are maintained within said load carrying body are mounted on said mounting floor.

10. The utility cart of claim 1, wherein said desired direction is selectable from the group consisting of: a straight line and an arc.

11. A remote-controlled, self-propelled utility cart for carrying a load comprising:

support means for supporting and carrying said load, the support means having a manual handle;

thrust means for moving said support means in a forward and backward direction of travel;

signal receiving means for receiving remotely generated signals and for supplying them to said thrust means; and

a control means for remotely generating a signal to designate said forward and backward direction of said thrust means, for remotely generating a signal to designate a speed of said thrust means, and for transmitting said remotely generated signals to said signal receiving means.

12. The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said remotely generated signals comprise a wireless protocol selected from the group consisting essentially of: radio frequency signals and infrared signals.

13. The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said support means comprises a thermal cooler box.

14. The utility cart of claim 13, wherein a least a portion of said thrust means is maintained within the confines of said thermal cooler box.
15. The utility cart of claim 14, wherein said thermal cooler box comprises a selectively removable loading floor defining a loading portion and a mounting portion.
16. The utility cart of claim 14, wherein said thermal cooler box comprises a molded loading floor defining a loading portion and a mounting portion.
17. The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said forward and backward direction is along a line of travel selected from the group consisting of: a straight line and an arced line.
18. The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said thrust means comprises a power source, a steering assembly operably connected to a steering wheel assembly and a drive assembly operably connected to a drive wheel assembly, wherein said power source selectively powers said steering assembly and said drive assembly.
19. A self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest comprising:
 - an ice chest comprising an insulated body and a cover, the insulated body including a steering assembly, a drive assembly, a power source and a mounting space that is sealingly separated from a storage space, the power source adapted to selectively power the drive assembly and the steering assembly, the drive assembly adapted to

interface with a drive wheel assembly while the steering assembly is adapted to interface with a steering wheel assembly;

a receiver proximate the ice chest; and

a remote controller, the controller including a transmitter operating at a frequency receivable by the receiver, the controller further comprising a throttle control and a steering control, the controller communicating with the receiver to direct movement of the ice chest.

20. The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the insulated body includes a perimeter bracket, the perimeter bracket adapted to accommodate an insulated sealing floor to sealingly separate the storage space and the mounting space.

21. The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the insulated body is integrally molded such that the storage space and the mounting space are separated by a molded, wall member.

22. The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the power source is selected from the group consisting of: internal combustion engine, fuel cell and batteries.

23. The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the remote controller comprises at least a two-channel controller, a first channel for controlling operation of the drive assembly and a second channel for controlling operation of the steering assembly.